

# the Great "Sherlock Holmes"

## Are Supernatural Explained by Mr. Joseph L. Rinn,

### Exposed the Famous Madame Palladino

(Continued from Preceding Page)

"Mr. Doyle then trumpets: 'I'd like to confront a skeptic with the extraordinary objects which Bailey produced. Where does he get them? I had an Indian nest. Does anyone import Indian nests? Does anyone import queer little tortoises with long, thin necks? Is there a depot for Turkish copper coins in Australia? How do they get into the country? If not genuine, where do they come from?'"

"These questions sound like Sherlock Holmes. They are just the things the old detective would set himself to find out. But it is only a passing glimmer of the old, keen-witted mind. No effort is made to run down these very simple clues—the medium said they were supernatural; they are accepted without challenge."

"Conan Doyle should have found out himself the answers to those questions before putting his Bailey experiences before the public as genuine spiritual phenomena. The burden of proof is not on his readers, but on him. If turtles, tablets and what not material things can be brought by spirits in the twinkling of an eye from places thousands of miles away, here is a miracle second in importance to those of our Saviour in its importance to humanity, its knowledge and its destiny."

"It is a well-known fact that there are many people all over the world who make a business of supplying mediums with paraphernalia for the tricks they perform at seances. If Sir Arthur had put Sherlock Holmes on the trail he would undoubtedly have found that Bailey obtained his stage properties from some such source."

"Now, I would perform this particular seance as follows:

"If I were searched nothing would be found on me. I would have the two heels in my shoes hollow and would have them half full of water with a tortoise in each one, the heels being removable. The fifty-six Turkish coins would readily fit in the two soles of my shoes, also hollow. And if I wished to make the apparitions disappear from the basin I would certainly take care not to splash any water on the table, replace them in my heels and then turn on the lights, and Conan Doyle would have been just as easily fooled by me as he was by Mr. Bailey."

"Why didn't Bailey produce turtles too big to be concealed in his shoes?"

"Let us now consider the remarkable 'clairvoyant' dog of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's book, which has aroused so much discussion. This is, indeed, something new."

"While I was at Auckland," writes Sir Arthur, "Mr. Poynton, a stipendiary magistrate there, told me of a dog in Christchurch which had a power of thought comparable not merely to a human being, but even, as I understood him, to a clairvoyant, as it would bark out the number of coins in your pocket and other such questions. The alternative to clairvoyance was that he was a very quick and accurate thought-reader, but in some cases the power seemed to go beyond this. Mr. Poynton, who had studied the subject, mentioned four learned beasts in history: a marvelous horse in Shakespeare's time, which was burned with its master in Florence; the Boston skipper's dog, Hans, the Russian horse, and Darkie, of Christchurch. He investigated the latter himself as one of a committee of three. On the first occasion they got no results. On the second, ninety per cent of the questions were right, and they included sums of addition, subtraction, etc. 'It was uncanny,' he wrote."

"I called, therefore, upon Mrs. McGibbon, the owner, who allowed me to see the dog. He was a dark, vivacious fox-terrier, sixteen years old, blind and deaf."

"When a half-crown was placed before him and he was asked how many sixpences were in it he gave five barks, and four for a florin, but when a shilling was substituted he gave twelve, which looked as if he had pennies on his mind."

"The creature's powers were first discovered when the son of the house remarked one day: 'I will give you a biscuit if you bark three times.' He at once did it. 'Now, six times.' He did so. 'Now, take three off.' He barked three times once again."

"Since then they have hardly found any problem he could not tackle. When asked how many males in the room he always included himself in the number, but omitted himself when asked how many human beings."

"One wonders," continues Mr. Doyle, "with an Alice-in-Wonderland naïveté, 'how many other dogs have human brains without the humans being clever enough to detect it.'"

"It is truly pathetic," said Mr. Rinn, "to note that Conan Doyle comments upon the possibility of this dog being a thought reader or clairvoyant. All over the world we have similar dogs that have been taught to do tricks of a similar character by a code. We even had a dog in this country that was taught to talk in sounds like German and it was exhibited a year ago on the theatrical stage."

"In Germany for a number of years they had an 'educated horse' that did similar tricks and fooled several scientific investigators by beating the ground with his foot and stamping out different numbers. Finally one person detected the method that gave the horse a clue when to stop and when to go on, and the wonder disappeared."

"But you only have to go to the circus at our doors to witness far greater feats of animal training than this."

"But the dog was deaf and blind," Sir Arthur says. Did he verify this—verify it, as Sherlock Holmes would have done, absolutely? He does not indicate it. And even if the dog had been deaf and blind it could still have felt and obeyed a code transmitted by a pressure of a foot on the floor."

Further on Sir Arthur writes: "Dr.



Mr. Rinn Demonstrating How a "Spirit Message" Can Be Written in the Darkness of a Seance When Both Hands of the Medium Are Firmly Held.

A. A. Doyle, of Brisbane, tells about his son, who died at the front. At that moment," he writes, "his father awoke to find the young soldier stooping over him, his face quite close. He at once woke his wife and told her that their son, he feared, was dead. But here comes a fine point. He said to the wife, 'Eric has had a return of the acne of the face, for which I treated him years ago. I saw the spots.' The next mail brought a letter, written before Eric's death, asking that some special ointment be sent as his acne had returned. This is a very instructive case, as showing that even an abnormal thing is reproduced at first upon the etheric body."

Mr. Rinn states in regard to this: "Pimples on the face of the spirit is a new thing. It is a physical defect, not psychic, so how can Mr. Doyle accept such a theory? It shows the simplicity with which he accepts every statement told to him, no matter how absurd it may be. The evidence we have in the Psychic Research Society, which has been investigating all similar statements, shows that they amount to but very little when investigated. It is generally found that the phenomena simply never happened."

"After my lecture in Paris," writes Sir Arthur, "we were favored by an extraordinary exhibition from a medium named Aubert. This gentleman had no musical education whatsoever, but he sits down in a state of trance and handles the piano as if for one have never heard it handled before. He sits with his eyes closed while someone calls the alphabet, striking one note when the right letter sounds. In this way he spells out the name of the particular composer whom he will represent. He then dashes off upon a piece which is not a known composition of that author, but has an improvisation of his manner. Needles can be driven through him while he plays, and sums can be set before him, which he can work out without ceasing the wonderful music which seems to flow from him, but independently of his own powers or volition. He would certainly cause a sensation in London."

Mr. Rinn comments: "The simplicity of Sir Arthur in the analysis of a case like this is apparent. How does he know that Aubert never had learned to play the piano? He seems to imagine that this gentleman produces his results by spirit guidance. But in this country we have a vaudeville performer who can do six different things at one time, and who has caused no sensation here. This gentleman will write on two different subjects and write them backwards, all at one time. And he does other things."

"Hindoo fakirs walk on glass, live coals, etc. We have any number of people in this country who have no sensation of pain—or, if so, can control it—when needles are pushed into their flesh, and who do not claim to be mediums. So it can be readily seen that spirits have nothing to do in cases of this character."

Mr. Doyle writes: "At the house of Mr. Reynolds, of Dunedin, I met one of the most powerful clairvoyants and trance mediums whom I have tested. Her name is Mrs. Roberts. . . . When in touch with my conditions she at once gave the names of several relatives and friends who have passed over, without any slurring or mistakes."

"She then cried, 'I see an elderly lady here—she is a beautifully high spirit—her name is Selina.' This rather unusual name belonged to my wife's mother, who died nearly two years ago."

"Then, suddenly, becoming slightly convulsed, as a medium does when her mechanism is controlled by another, she cried, with an indescribably intensity of feeling, 'Thank God! Thank God to get in touch again, Jean! Jean! Give my love to Jean!'"

"Both names, therefore, had been got correctly, that of the mother and daughter. Is it not an affront to reason to explain away such results by wild theories of telepathy, or by anything save the perfectly plain and obvious fact that spirit communion is indeed true and that I was really in touch with that dead lady who was, even upon earth, a beautifully high and unselfish spirit?"

Mr. Rinn's comment: "It is pathetic to see how simple Sir Arthur is. Any medium in the world, knowing his belief in spiritualism, would have been posted upon his relatives—especially on a woman dead only two years—and could have given this particular seance dramatically, so that his comments seem also childish. He is simply in a state where he is willing to believe in anything. He never thinks of



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the Celebrated Author of the Sherlock Holmes Detective Stories, Who Now Sees and Talks with Ghosts and Insists He Is Too Clever to Be Fooled by Frauds and Fakirs.

trickery or that a medium could be posted beforehand about the relatives of a man so publicly known as a believer in spiritualism."

"Conan Doyle writes: 'Mrs. Foster-Turner is perhaps the greatest all-round medium in Australia. . . . She gave a prophecy as follows on a Sunday in February, 1914: "Now, although there is not at present a whisper of a great European war at hand, yet I want to warn you that before this year, 1914, has run its course, Europe will be deluged with blood. Great Britain, our beloved nation, will be drawn into the most awful war the world has ever known. Germany will be the great antagonist and will draw other nations in her train. Austria will totter to its ruin. Kings and kingdoms will fall. Millions of precious lives will be slaughtered, but Britain will finally triumph and emerge victorious.'"

"Doyle continues: 'Can any prophecy be more accurate or better authenticated than that?'"

"Mr. Rinn replies: 'It is evident that Conan Doyle is not posted. How many times has a similar prophecy been made by mediums in the last fifteen years? Nearly every prominent medium and astrologer in the world for years has made a somewhat similar prediction of a European war. Mme. Thebes had repeatedly done so. She also predicted the Kaiser's death. And for almost a generation both Britons and Germans spoke of "The Day" when their respective nations would be at war. It was almost like predicting an American Presidential election in 1924. This kind of prediction is stock talk with mediums. They really use no names or give us any definite information. But believers always seem to think they have prophesied something definite, and they never remember the predictions that do not come true. If there are any people with the powers believed in by Conan Doyle they should be able to prove it.'"

"I absolutely challenge any person who claims clairvoyant power to prove it, and I have repeatedly offered \$5,000 re-

The Old-Fashioned Way Fake Mediums Materialized a Spook by Means of Poking a Handkerchief Out from Under the Hidden Curtain of the Medium's Cabinet.

ward to any medium who will predict fifteen minutes ahead anything definite and positive about some one or something over which said medium had no control and could not positively have any knowledge of. For instance, John Smith, seated in the first car of the subway train, will be killed by a collision at 7 o'clock on a certain day, or some similar definite statement."

"If there are mediums who have these so-called clairvoyant powers and who only charge a dollar or two for a sitting, why haven't they discovered for the police the criminals in the Wall Street explosion and obtained the \$100,000 reward? Why haven't they helped the hundreds of thousands of anguished mothers who have lost their daughters, or brought to justice the many who have cruelly murdered people while performing criminal acts?"

"I have also offered similar rewards for scientific proof of spirit pictures, of sealed letter reading under scientific conditions, and of other phenomena claimed to be produced by mediums. But in spite of the fact that I have done this in the interest of science and not in an antagonistic spirit they have borne no results. No phenomena of any character that is supernatural have ever been produced before people who are experts in trickery, but they continue to be produced and will continue to be produced as long as people who are not experienced in trickery or fraud witness seances, and lay down the conditions to clairvoyants."

"As a member of the Society of American Magicians, I will personally invite Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to a meeting of the society at which myself and others will produce certain phenomena, and I absolutely challenge him to tell us in what way they are produced. If he cannot detect our tricks how can he consider himself competent to judge mediums."

"I further challenge any medium Sir Arthur Conan Doyle may choose to read the contents of one of the last letters written by Richard Hodgson, which I now have in my safe, and which no medium has as yet read."

"I am reminded of a conversation between Sherlock Holmes and the excellent Watson—because in it occurs a remark so peculiarly descriptive of Conan Doyle's condition of mind while dealing with spiritualistic 'phenomena' that it might have been written by the Doyle of to-day. Sherlock Holmes has been teaching from an old hat a lesson in observation and deduction. 'I can see nothing,' observes Watson, handing back the hat. 'On the contrary, Watson,' remarks Holmes, 'you can see everything. You fall, however, to reason from what you see.'"

"And now one thing more," said Mr. Rinn. "An entirely new stunt has recently been sprung by the 'spirit mediums.' The mediums are now, a few of them, produc-

How the Mystery "Levitation" or Table-Tipping Is Produced by the Medium Who Rests Her Hands Gently on the Top of the Table and Pries It Up by Levers of Wood or Iron Which Are Strongly Attached to Her Wrist.

ing some sort of "a frothy, stringy stuff which they claim comes out of their bodies and turns into materialized spirits. This stuff is called ectoplasm."

"These like Conan Doyle, who have been permitted to be present when this ectoplasm is produced, are allowed to see it and feel it and play with it and measure it and weigh it. Then they are permitted to photograph the medium by flashlight and are provided with photographs which show the ectoplasmic emanations coming out of the medium. One such picture is shown on this page, where the famous medium, Mme. Eva, is spitting a ghost out of her mouth in this new supernatural emanation called ectoplasm."

"I have not had an opportunity to be present at one of these new ectoplasmic seances, and I therefore cannot say with certainty how Eva and the others produce it or exactly what the stuff is. But there are a few significant facts about this ectoplasm phenomenon which the spiritualists and the mediums and their friends provide us with."

"We are told that ectoplasm is a 'thought emanation.' If this is so, how can it be possible that ectoplasm has weight, substance and feeling? And how can it be gathered up in your hands? No other 'thought emanations' have ever been known to be or even pretended to be of substantial physical qualities which can be dipped up into the hands and put into a dish."

"A significant fact is that it was found that the medium weighed less after giving out these ectoplasmic emanations. This fact fits in with the announcement that ectoplasm has weight."

"It is very significant, I think, that the medium weighs more while she has the spirit ectoplasm inside of her than she does after she has ejected it. In fact, this unescapable fact probably brings us to the real explanation of the whole thing."

"The medical world knows thoroughly well that there is a class of individuals who are known as 'ruminants'—people who can swallow large quantities of a substance and bring it up again from their stomachs at will. Many 'ruminants' have earned an honest living in the old dime museums and side shows of the travelling circus, who astonished the audiences by swallowing glass, nails, key rings and all sorts of

Remarkable "Spirit Photograph" Showing Conan Doyle's Medium, Madame Eva, Regurgitating the Strange Stuff from Her Stomach Which Spiritualists Insist Is the Material

Ghosts Are Made Out Of.

junk, until the worried spectators felt sure they would read of their death in the morning papers. But these people are 'ruminants,' and as soon as they leave the exhibition stage they bring up from their stomach the unpalatable mess which has astonished the audience."

"I should venture to say that this new evidence of 'supernormal phenomena,' this ectoplasm substance which the mediums eject, is some sort of a soapy, gelatine substance which is swallowed by a medium who has the faculty of being a 'ruminant.' When the time comes to materialize the spook, she regurgitates this stuff up out of her stomach, and the thrilled believers testify to having seen a 'supernormal demonstration.'"

"It is a curious fact that this spirit medium, Eva, had poor success in England and complained that the 'conditions were not favorable.' In other words, a rather sharper watch was kept on the medium there than hitherto in other seances throughout Europe, and all Eva was able to safely produce was a sort of soft, bubbly, frothy mass, perhaps an inch or two long. At any rate, I will be glad to present Mme. Eva with my check for \$5,000 if she will give me an opportunity to test her and I am unable to prove that her ectoplasmic emanations have a normal and not a supernatural explanation."

"And finally, I would like to point out that scientific men do not always discover even the simplest of tricks. They are not experts in magic and do not know how to look for frauds and tricks. A group of scientists watched me on one occasion when I placed a metal duck in a pail of water and, without manipulation, the duck bobbed up and down at my command."

"Aha," said a scientist, 'you use a magnet.'"

"I can make your hat move just the same," I said to one of them. The scientists put his derby hat on the table, and, sure enough, it moved around. The scientists were puzzled. I had a magnet concealed in the table and I happened to know what the scientists did not know—that there is a metal wire in the brim of a derby hat."

"If Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sir Oliver Lodge and Mme. Eva and the spirit photographers will only include on their investigating committees a few experts in 'magic tricks,' like myself and Mr. Houdini, or any other members of the Society of American Magicians, we will, I am quite sure, be able to explain every one of the 'supernormal phenomena' which have deluded the author of Sherlock Holmes, and we will endeavor to produce all of the tricks in the bright sunlight of Broadway where everybody can see how we make the ghosts come and go at will."

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